

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 12TH ANNUAL TEACHERS ON AN AGRISCIENCE BUS PROGRAM

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2002

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 12th Annual Teachers on an Agriscience Bus Program as well as the invaluable contributions it has made in expanding the understanding of agriculture and agriscience.

First launched as a pilot program in June 1991, the Teachers on an Agriscience Bus Program was developed to include tours and seminars at a variety of agriscience industries in Chicago and the Western Suburbs. Tour hosts explain the multitude of career opportunities in agriscience and provide tours of their facilities, demonstrating the high-tech nature of the industry.

In 1991, the program included 26 staff members from Naperville School District 203. However, it became evident to those involved that the wealth of information provided by the Program could serve a greater purpose by opening up the experience to neighboring school districts. To date, 504 participants from 30 school districts, many of which are located in my Congressional District, have taken part in the program.

The agriculture industry in the State of Illinois is of primary importance to the economy, not only to the state, but as one of the largest employers in the U.S. The youth of America, and particularly those in Illinois, need current, up-to-date, technological backgrounds in the importance of agriculture in their everyday lives and of the career opportunities available to them in the industry.

As a former high school teacher, I can attest to the importance of continued innovative programs needed to reach our youth. The Teachers on an Agriscience Bus Program enables educators to share an awareness and appreciation for agriculture and agriscience career opportunities with their students. Participants in the Program have introduced approximately 60,000 students to the fact that agriscience and its related industries constitute more than just farming; today it is a highly technical, viable and sophisticated industry.

Finally, I would like to point out that the continued success of the Teachers on an Agriscience Bus Program is due to the overwhelming support of the sponsoring organizations, including: the Midwest Dairy Association of Illinois, DuPage County Fair Association, DuPage County Farm Bureau, DuPage County Regional Office of Education, Illinois Landscape Contractors Association, Naperville Community Unit School District 203, Wheatland Plowing Match Association, DuPage Education to Careers System, 1st Farm Credit Services of Northern Illinois, Illinois Pork Producers and Illinois Agricultural Association Foundation.

I commend everyone involved in the Teachers on an Agriscience Bus Program for their commitment to educate our children on the importance of agriculture and am hopeful they will continue to make a positive impact in the lives of students and staff for years to come.

TRIBUTE TO DR. WILLIAM O. CASON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2002

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend and fellow South Carolinian, Dr. William O. Cason. On June 30, 2002, "Bill," as he is commonly referred, will retire from Sumter County School District 17, where he served as Superintendent for three challenging but rewarding years. After 34 years in public education, it is a retirement well deserved and he will be sorely missed.

Dr. Cason began his educational career in Georgia public schools in 1968 as a math and history teacher at Clinch County High School. He also served as an assistant football and basketball coach, an assistant principal and guidance counselor, and as principal for high schools, where he served for over fourteen years. Prior to coming to Sumter School District 17, he was the Superintendent of Schools in the Colleton County School District in Walterboro, South Carolina from 1993–1999.

When Dr. Cason accepted the position of Superintendent of Sumter School District 17, he came to a district in the throes of scandal and quickly turned the school system to solid fiscal and educational footing. During his tenure, he made several needed changes to the personnel division of the school district which included: increasing the number of insurance options available to employees, supporting the development of a comprehensive salary schedule to ensure equity for non-teaching positions, instituted signing bonuses to attract quality teachers, added personal leave days for employees who were not eligible for annual leave.

Dr. Cason received a bachelor's degree in secondary education, a master's degree in history, a master's degree in education administration supervision all from Valdosta State College, and a doctorate degree in education administration supervision from Georgia State University. He is a member of numerous national, state and local organizations, and will be retiring to a family of five wonderful children and a loving wife.

Samuel Johnson said, "What we hope to do with ease, we must learn to do with diligence." Dr. Cason is an exemplar of what Johnson referred. He was diligent in his strides to make Sumter School District 17 all that it can be. Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me today in honoring Dr. Bill Cason. The contributions he made to his community and to the educational system will leave lasting im-

pressions on the lives he touched. I wish him continue success and Godspeed!

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF OWASCO

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2002

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 200th Anniversary of the Town of Owasco. This bicentennial will include town historical events beginning in June and continuing through the year long celebration.

Settlers began arriving in this scenic area in 1792 and built their homes along the beautiful shores of Owasco Lake. The town of Owasco was officially founded in 1802. During the town's early history, dignitaries such as Martin Van Buren and Washington Irving were entertained in this beautiful Cayuga County setting.

The jewel of Owasco, perched on the North end of the lake, is what is now known as Emerson Park. While many facets of life in Owasco have changed over the past two hundred years, the park has remained a staple of the community. It opened on July 1, 1889, boasting a family orientated atmosphere with a merry-go-round and a 350-foot miniature train ride. By the 1890's the park had a hotel, dance hall, and even began to serve ice cream cones. The park became the centerpiece of entertainment in Cayuga County and the gem of the Town of Owasco.

The rich history of Owasco and Emerson Park provides the backdrop for this bicentennial celebration. It is my honor to recognize the Town of Owasco and to extend best wishes for many more years that will continue to contribute to the distinguished history of Cayuga County.

RECOGNIZING VACAVILLE CITY ATTORNEY CHARLES O. LAMOREE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2002

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to recognize Vacaville, California City Attorney Charles O. Lamoree, a dedicated public servant who is retiring June 30, 2002 after twenty-five years of tremendous service to his community.

Mr. Lamoree has been the City Attorney in Vacaville since 1989. During his tenure, he wrote the city's Planned Growth Ordinance

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